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13 October 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Office of Budget, Program
Analysis and Manpower

SUBJECT: Cost of Aerial Reconnaissance

1. Positions taken by various members of COMOR seem to be affected from time to time by preconceived judgments concerning the cost of mounting an additional mission or missions beyond those already scheduled. It would be most helpful to the Committee if we had a clear understanding of the cost structure involved in reconnaissance by manned aircraft, particularly the U-2.

2. I have heard one figure concerning the cost of U-2 reconnaissance, i.e., one U-2 mission costs [redacted] I presume that this figure was derived by taking the total cost of the Agency's U-2 program and dividing it by the total number of missions flown. This may therefore be a reasonable figure for missions already accomplished but does not help us in assessing the additional cost of the next additional mission. I would suspect that in practice the next additional mission would add very little to the total cost of the program.

3. Inasmuch as your office has access to cost figures and considerable expertise at systems analysis, I would appreciate it if you would undertake to provide COMOR with a study of the costs involved in reconnaissance by manned aircraft. I would also be delighted to discuss this matter further with you and members of your staff.

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Chairman
Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

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